

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-28, and 71-72 are pending in the instant application. Of these, claims 1-6, 9-28, and 71-72 stand rejected in the pending office action. The assignee is grateful to the examiner for indicating that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 8 has been canceled herein, and its subject matter has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 24.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 9-28, 71, and 72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,937,422, issued to Nelson, et al. in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0126097, application of Savolainen. While the assignee respectfully disagrees that the subject matter of the rejected claims is disclosed in the cited references, in order to expedite prosecution of the instant application, independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended herein to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 8, which previously has been indicated by the examiner to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, the assignee requests that the examiner withdraw the rejections of the pending claims and pass this case to issuance.

For the foregoing reasons, assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable. Therefore, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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